

Response from Bromley residents

Bromley resident 1

Dear Mr Johnson,

I am emailing you today to raise some concern about the proposed closure of police stations in my Borough, Bromley, something that I believe is going to be a mistake of momentous proportions and a matter that I feel quite strongly about.

I have lived in Bromley for my entire life (32 years) and over this time there has been a noticeable increase in crime, i am sorry to say that amongst my friends i cannot think of one person that has not been a victim in one way or another and with this in mind i was astounded today to read that you are proposing to close three police stations in the borough and i am presuming (please correct me if I am wrong) cutting policing numbers as well.

I understand that we are in the midst of a financial crisis and that there is the real need to save money but i can t help that feel that to cut police budgets and reduce the police presence is both short sighted and a false economy.

It has been well published that during the recession there has been a rise in crime and with the rise in crime there is a knock on effect and this knock on effect really concerns me.

When crime is high good people move away to areas deemed safer, and are replaced with people who are more likely to tolerate crime affected areas - who are (and i hate to generalise) not always nice upstanding members of society, this is something that I am seeing happening all the time in Bromley, people are leaving the city for a better family life elsewhere. This affects the borough in every imaginable way - socially, financially, aesthetically, i could go on.

It's a real shame to witness a borough that is starting to turn form a lovely place where people wanted to raise their families to a place where people don't want to walk up the High Street at night.

CCTV is no replacement for a police present that I along with other residents feel is desperately needed, without the police being given the numbers to make the public feel like there is a real police presence there will be no controls in place to stop this knock on effect and i am dreading what this is going to do to my already blighted borough.

I would like to know, if you indeed are going to cut police numbers, what you intend to do about the resulting shortfall in police cover, what you think this is going to do to Bromley.

I would be very interested in hearing your viewpoint and receiving your opinion as I very much doubt that you will be in attendance at the consultation meetings that are being held.

May I take this time to add that I have never felt so strongly about a subject that i have taken the time to write to the Mayor before, so please do not dismiss this as another resident on a rant I can assure you that I am not. I have been astounded that these proposed cuts have even been suggested as it flies in the face of not only logic but what you proposed as past as your Mayoral campaign - your "9 point plan for a Greater London" which included "making our street and homes safer by putting 1000 more police on the beat" - Police are something that

society sadly needs at the moment and out off all your campaign manifesto this should be the one that you stick to. Look forward to receiving your response.

Bromley resident 2

I am objecting to the SNT being reduced to 1 PC & 1 PCSO as getting around the area is difficult especially on foot. Waiting for a police car to come the 6 miles from Bromley can take time & like happened this Tuesday, get lost in the valley. A police car pulled up outside my house with flashing lights to turn round as they were obviously lost.

Below is a brief description of the area & you may understand why:-

I live in Biggin Hill surrounded by Green Belt. The town centre is on the plateau about half mile South of London Biggin Hill Airport which has about half of the population. The rest of the residents live in the Valley which is accessed by road that due to the hillside be between 1 in 2 to 1 in 4 goes at an angle so it is about 1 in 10. The other side of the Valley is steep but nothing like the east side scarp, even so the primary school is on several terraces. The built up part of the Valley is about a mile long with road going a further half mile.

I also note that the only front counters to stay open in Bromley are all in the North West third of the Borough, nothing in the other two thirds!!

Bromley resident 3

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern at plans to deny Crystal Palace a dedicated police team under proposals from MOPAC for the reorganisation of policing in London.

I completely understand the difficult cost reduction and service redesign imperatives facing the MPS over the coming years. However, I do feel that certain elements of the proposals leave the area increasingly vulnerable

- the lack of 24 hour policing comes at a time when certain violent crime, including sexual and physical assault, are being increasingly reported in the Crystal Palace triangle / Church Road area

- plans for police to report to Borough centres before departing for duty and travelling on public transport (though commendable) reduces officer time in the Crystal Palace ward by 1 1/2 hours

Sitting on the verge of 5 boroughs means residents in my neighbourhood often feel under-represented, as responsibility is shifted across the 5 boroughs. As such, I was especially disappointed to here that Commissioner Howe admitted that policing in these border areas would always be challenging, yet offered no recommendations or assurances as to how this would be countered. His dismissal of our concerns does not speak to the pan-London service he should be championing.

I strongly urge decision makers to reconsider these proposals and provide Crystal Palace residents with a dedicated police team.